

D8
604 located on the other side. The atmospheric robot 703 travels along the track 704 and communicates with the cassettes 600 and the load locks 200.

B7
In both Figure 12 and Figure 13, the load lock environment may be maintained at atmospheric pressure. Thus, the present invention dispenses with the need for a large constant vacuum system and/or multiple intermediate vacuum stages. Further a mini-environment 704 may be defined by a wall 702. The wall 702 is shown as enclosing the atmospheric robots 602, 703 and having the various components of the systems 600 and 700 attached along an exterior side of the wall 702. Figures 12 and 13 show two other configurations in which the wall is moved to encompass additional components. In a preferred embodiment, wall 702' (shown in phantom) includes the load locks 200 within a mini-environment 704' while yet another configuration, shown in Figures 12 and 13, encompasses all the components by a wall 706 such that the entire systems 600 and 700 comprise mini-environments 708. The mini-environments 704, 704', 708 maintain a clean room substantially free of contaminants. A filtration system 710 (only one shown servicing mini-environment 708) supplies a filtered inert gas, such as air, into the mini-environment 708 and vents gray air therefrom.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants propose amendment of the drawings to correct errors noted subsequent to filing the application. Applicants have submitted the proposed corrections marked in red on the attached copies of the original drawings filed in the application. The proposed corrections conform the drawings to the written description of the invention without adding new matter. Applicants will provide corrected formal drawings upon notification of allowance.

Figure 13 is amended to change the number of the robot from "702" to --703--.